OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND DISEASES IN **ALBERTA**

Lost-Time Claims and Claim Ra

Alberta Mot Transport Associatio Industri

2001 to 200

Released July 2006

WORK SAFE ALBERTA

Alberta Human Resources and Employment

Building Alberta's Workforce

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HIGHLIGHTS

From 2001 to 2005...

- There were 10,970 lost-time claims from workers in the Alberta Motor Transport Association (AMTA) industries. Of those, 92.6% involved General Delivery Services Trucking industry.
- Sprains, strains and tears were the most common nature of injury, accounting for nearly half of the total lost-time claims.
- The trunk was the most commonly injured body part, accounting for 42.5% of the total claims.
- Overexertion was the cause of 22.0% of all incident types.
- More than half of the injured workers were between 25 and 44 years of age.
- Over twenty-nine percent of claims resulted in between one and five days off work.

In 2005...

- The Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) – Alberta accepted 2,089 lost-time claims from AMTA workers, representing 5.9% of all lost-time claims in the province.
- The lost-time claim rate for the AMTA industries was 4.6 per 100 person-years, the lowest rate achieved in the last five years. The 2005 provincial lost-time claim rate was 2.4 per 100 person-years.
- The duration rate for the AMTA industries was 158 days lost per 100 person-years compared to the provincial rate of 57 per 100 person-years.
- Specialized Trucking had the lowest lost-time claim rate of all AMTA industries, at 3.8 per 100 person-years. General Delivery Services Trucking had the highest lost-time claim rate, at 4.7 per 100 person-years.
- Employers with 100 or more person-years had the highest lost-time claim rate at 5.6 per 100 person-years.

- The WCB accepted 12 occupational fatalities for compensation in the AMTA industries, representing 8.4% of all workplace fatalities accepted in Alberta.

- Nearly five per cent of employers in the AMTA industries had a valid Certificate of Recognition (COR).

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

Role of Alberta Human Resources and Employment

Alberta Human Resources and Employment (AHRE) provides a continuum of services and information to support the development of a skilled and productive labour force; fair, safe, healthy and productive workplaces; and helping improve the well-being of Albertans. AHRE develops and delivers programs and services that contribute to workplaces for employees and employers by:

- working with industry and safety associations to audit and certify health and safety programs
- helping employers, employees, unions and industry associations work together by offering facilitation services, workshops and partnership opportunities
- developing and maintaining policy and legislated employment standards in Alberta
- preparing and providing ongoing support of Alberta's workplace health and safety regulations
- explaining legislated standards under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and the *Employment Standards Code* and ensuring compliance through complaint resolution, investigation and targeted inspections.

Occupational Injuries and Diseases in AMTA Industries 2001 to 2005

Each year, AHRE prepares a report on the occupational injuries and diseases in the AMTA industries. The purpose of this report is to provide government, employers, workers, and health and safety professionals in the AMTA industries with information about key health and safety issues. This report includes:

- an estimation of the risk of injury or disease in addition to general descriptive information about incidents and injured workers
- the number of employers that earned a Certificate of Recognition (COR)
- occupational fatalities accepted by the WCB for compensation and fatality rates for the AMTA industries.

Notes about this report:

- This report presents 2005 data beside 2004 data to help with comparisons. Additional historical data are presented where possible.

- Throughout the report, the lost-time claim rate is the number of claims per 100 person-years, and the duration rate is the number of days lost per 100 person-years.

- Estimates of year over year change presented in this report are calculated using unrounded figures and may not match those produced from rounded figures.

- In 2005, improvements have been made to the data collection. A stricter definition of a lost-time claim has been adopted and applied to the data covering the period 2001 to 2005. Previously, a small proportion of modified-work claims were also captured as lost-time.

- Improvements have also been made in the analysis by workers occupation. The 2001 National Occupation Classification (NOC) has been adopted for the presentation of figures by occupation. The NOC 2001 provides a standardized framework reflecting the Canadian labour market. For further information please see http://www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/2001/e/generic/welcome.shtml.

- Terms, definitions and formulas are described in Appendix A. Industry codes are listed in Appendix B.

SECTION 2

LOST-TIME CLAIM RATE AND DURATION RATE

The lost-time claim rate[1] represents the probability or risk of an injury or disease to a worker during a period of one year. The 2005 lost-time claim rate for the AMTA industries was 4.6 per 100 person-years.

In 2005, there were 2,089 lost-time claims in the AMTA industries, representing 5.9% of the total lost-time claims in the province. The person-years figures for 2005 represent 3.1% of workers in the province. The AMTA industries' lost-time claim rate was 4.6 per 100 person-years, a decrease of 8.2% from 2004 and the lowest rate over the last five years (see Table 2.0). The 2005 provincial lost-time claim rate was 2.4. The lost-time claim rate of 4.6 per 100 person-years translates to 23 lost-time claims per million hours worked.

The duration rate is intended to show the severity of the effects of occupational injury and disease as reflected by the number of days off work per 100 person-years. In 2005, the AMTA industries had a duration rate of 158, the lowest in the last five years although nearly three times higher than the provincial duration rate of 57.

Table 2.0
AMTA Industries — Alberta: 2001-2005

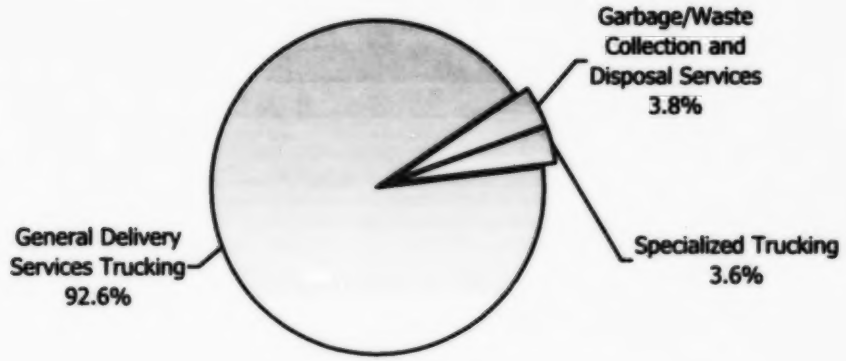
Year	Number of Accounts	Cost of Claims	Person-Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	Lost-Time Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate
2001	12,863	$16,403,120	39,326	108,567	276	2,464	6.3
2002	13,022	$17,267,655	39,739	94,978	239	2,238	5.6
2003	12,968	$16,759,760	40,461	94,265	233	2,139	5.3
2004	13,092	$16,097,237	40,649	76,676	189	2,040	5.0
2005	13,822	$15,646,429	45,383	71,639	158	2,089	4.6

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[1] The rate has been calculated from lost-time claims data as of March 31, 2006. This rate underestimates the risk of occupational injury and disease since some lost-time claims that occurred in 2005 were not administered by March 31, 2006.

Between 2001 and 2005, there were 10,970 lost-time claims in the AMTA industries. The General Delivery Services Trucking industry had the most with 92.6% of total claims (see Chart 2.0).

Chart 2.0
Percentage of Lost-Time Claims for the AMTA Industries — Alberta: 2001-2005



Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

2.1 Lost-Time Claim Rate by Size of Employer

In the AMTA industries, employers with 100 or more person-years had the highest lost-time claim rate at 5.6 per 100 person-years, followed by employers with 40 to 99 person-years at 5.1. Employers with less than 10 person-years had the lowest lost-time claim rate of 3.8 (see Table 2.1). For the province, employers with 20 to 39 and 40 to 99 person-years had the highest lost-time claim rate of 2.8 per 100 person-years while employers with less than 10 person-years had the lowest rate of 2.2 per 100 person-years.

Table 2.1
Lost-Time Claim Rate by Size[2] of Employer — Alberta: 2005

Size of Employer	Number of Accounts	Lost Time Claims	Person-Years	Lost-Time Claim Rate
Less than 10 person-years	12,971	541	14,210	3.8
10 to 19 person-years	321	156	4,515	3.5
20 to 39 person-years	195	232	5,488	4.2
40 to 99 person-years	107	339	6,648	5.1
100 or more person-years	61	812	14,503	5.6
Unspecified	167	9	0	N/A [1]

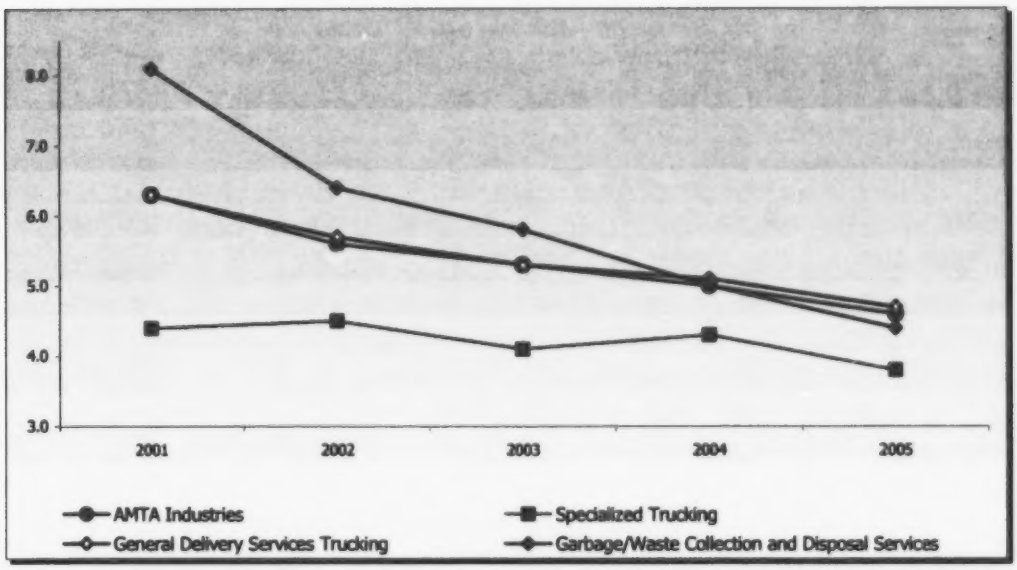
[1] These are employers with no payroll information or with person-years equal to zero.
Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[2] Size is measured in terms of person-years.

2.2 Lost-Time Claims for the AMTA Industries

Between 2001 and 2003, the Garbage/Waste Collection and Disposal Services industry had the highest lost-time claim rate. In 2004 and 2005, the General Delivery Services Trucking industry had the highest rate. The Specialized Trucking industry had the lowest rate in each year (see Chart 2.2).

Chart 2.2
Lost-Time Claim Rate for the AMTA Industries — Alberta: 2001-2005



Industry	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
AMTA Industries	6.3	5.6	5.3	5.0	4.6
Specialized Trucking	4.4	4.5	4.1	4.3	3.8
General Delivery Services Trucking	6.3	5.7	5.3	5.1	4.7
Garbage/Waste Collection and Disposal Services	8.1	6.4	5.8	5.0	4.4

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

2.2A Specialized Trucking

In 2005, the Specialized Trucking industry had a lost-time claim rate of 3.8 per 100 person-years, a 12.5% decrease from 2004. The duration rate increased from 214 days lost per 100 person-years in 2004 to 229 in 2005, an increase of 7.0% (see Table 2.2A).

Table 2.2A
Specialized Trucking — Alberta: 2001-2005

Year	Number of Accounts	Cost of Claims	Person-Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	Lost-Time Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate
2001	845	$704,927	1,739	4,017	231	77	4.4
2002	840	$1,215,952	1,504	3,391	225	68	4.5
2003	878	$1,982,607	1,954	4,649	238	80	4.1
2004	893	$1,086,368	1,918	4,110	214	83	4.3
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

2.2B General Delivery Services Trucking

The lost-time claim rate in 2005 for the General Delivery Services Trucking industry was 4.7 per 100 person-years, the lowest rate during the last five years. The duration rate fell by 17.4% from 190 days lost per 100 person-years in 2004 to 157 in 2005 (see Table 2.2B).

Table 2.2B
General Delivery Services Trucking — Alberta: 2001-2005

Year	Number of Accounts	Cost of Claims	Person-Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	Lost-Time Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate
2001	11,828	$15,313,312	36,359	101,813	280	2,288	6.3
2002	11,991	$15,814,882	36,955	90,040	244	2,088	5.7
2003	11,892	$14,408,642	37,113	87,972	237	1,978	5.3
2004	11,991	$14,610,485	37,183	70,743	190	1,880	5.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

2.2C Garbage/Waste Collection and Disposal Services

Garbage/Waste Collection and Disposal Services industry experienced an 11.8% decrease in the lost-time claim rate from 5.0 per 100 person-years in 2004 to 4.4 in 2005, the lowest rate in the past five years. The duration rate fell from 118 in 2004 to 87 days lost per 100 person-years in 2005 (see Table 2.2C).

Table 2.2C
Garbage/Waste Collection and Disposal Services — Alberta: 2001-2005

Year	Number of Accounts	Cost of Claims	Person-Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	Lost-Time Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate
2001	190	$384,881	1,228	2,737	223	99	8.1
2002	191	$236,820	1,280	1,547	121	82	6.4
2003	198	$368,512	1,394	1,644	118	81	5.8
2004	208	$400,385	1,548	1,823	118	77	5.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

SECTION 3

INJURY AND DISEASE ANALYSIS

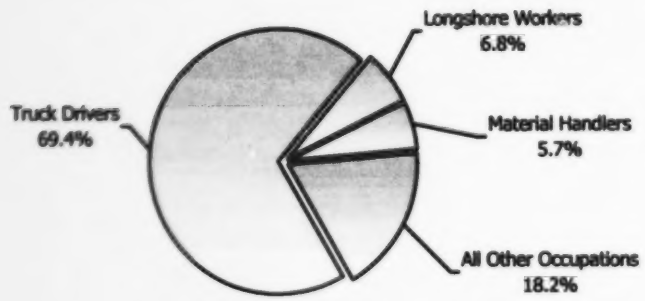
Overexertion was the most common cause for lost-time claims. Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury with the trunk being the most commonly injured body part.

This section describes the characteristics of the injured workers and the nature of their injuries or diseases. Tables are provided to enable comparisons of 2005 injuries and diseases in AMTA industries with provincial averages and trends. A detailed explanation of the formulas for calculating the indicators of the comparison tables is available in Appendix A.

3.1 Injured Worker Characteristics

In 2005, three occupations accounted for more 81.9% of lost-time claims in the AMTA industries. Truck drivers had the most claims at 69.4%, followed by longshore workers at 6.8% (see Chart 3.1A).

Chart 3.1A
Lost-Time Claims by Occupation — Alberta: 2005



Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Between 2001 and 2005, 53.6% of claims were from workers aged between 25 and 44 years. Workers aged 45 years and older had 34.9% of claims, while young workers aged 15 to 24 accounted for 11.4% (see Table 3.1A).

Table 3.1A
Lost-Time Claims by Age — Alberta: 2001-2005

Age	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total Lost-Time Claims	Total %
15-19 Years	85	57	50	63	[illegible]	312	2.8%
20-24 Years	254	211	169	143	[illegible]	942	8.6%
25-34 Years	645	537	479	502	[illegible]	2,610	23.8%
35-44 Years	753	716	639	537	[illegible]	3,268	29.8%
45-54 Years	497	443	498	544	[illegible]	2,486	22.7%
55-64 Years	198	244	269	222	[illegible]	1,173	10.7%
65 Years and Over	30	24	35	29	[illegible]	170	1.5%
Unspecified	2	6	0	0	[illegible]	9	<0.1%
Total	**2,464**	**2,238**	**2,139**	**2,040**	[illegible]	**10,970**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In the AMTA industries, the majority of claims were from men. Between 2001 and 2005, 91.2% of claims involved men. Lost-time claims from women accounted for 7.0% (see Table 3.1B).

Table 3.1B
Lost-Time Claims by Gender — Alberta: 2001-2005

Gender	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total Lost-Time Claims	Total %
Men	2,253	2,032	1,956	1,872	[illegible]	10,003	91.2%
Women	169	151	143	144	[illegible]	771	7.0%
Unspecified	42	55	40	24	[illegible]	196	1.8%
Total	**2,464**	**2,238**	**2,139**	**2,040**	[illegible]	**10,970**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

3.2 Nature of Injury or Disease

The nature of injury is used to identify the physical characteristics of the injury or disease. Between 2001 and 2005, 89.7% of all lost-time claims were caused by traumatic injuries and disorders. The three most common traumatic injuries and disorders were: sprains, strains and tears, 49.5%, fractures and dislocations, 11.4%, and surface wounds and bruises, 11.0% (see Table 3.2A).

Table 3.2A
Nature of Injury or Disease — Alberta: 2001-2005

Nature of Injury or Disease	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total Lost-Time Claims	%
Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	**2,219**	**1,948**	**1,909**	**1,857**	[illegible]	**9,836**	**89.7%**
Sprains, Strains and Tears	1,279	1,117	1,035	997	[illegible]	5,431	49.5%
Fractures and Dislocations	256	247	246	268	[illegible]	1,247	11.4%
Surface Wounds and Bruises	270	210	230	243	[illegible]	1,208	11.0%
Open Wounds	116	82	89	84	[illegible]	474	4.3%
Burns	30	27	18	23	[illegible]	131	1.2%
Other Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	268	265	291	242	[illegible]	1,345	12.3%
Systemic Diseases and Disorders	**66**	**74**	**86**	**66**	[illegible]	**377**	**3.4%**
Other Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**12**	**4**	**14**	**7**	[illegible]	**45**	**0.4%**
Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions	**8**	**6**	**3**	**6**	[illegible]	**34**	**0.3%**
Multiple Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**3**	**3**	**1**	**1**	[illegible]	**8**	**0.1%**
Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	[illegible]	**2**	**0.0%**
Nature of Injury - Unknown	**156**	**201**	**126**	**103**	[illegible]	**668**	**6.1%**
Total	**2,464**	**2,238**	**2,139**	**2,040**	[illegible]	**10,970**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2005, sprains, strains and tears accounted for 48.0% of all claims in the AMTA industries. This was 1.9 times higher than the average percentage of injuries in this injury category for the province. Fractures and dislocations accounted for 11.0% of claims, which was 2.4 times higher than the provincial average (see Table 3.2B).

Table 3.2B
Nature of Injury or Disease — Comparison 2005[3]

Nature of Injury or Disease	% of AMTA Industries' Claims	% of Total Provincial Claims	Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average
Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	**91.1%**	**90.9%**	**1.9**
Sprains, Strains and Tears	48.0%	47.6%	1.9
Surface Wounds and Bruises	12.2%	11.5%	2.0
Fractures and Dislocations	11.0%	8.9%	2.4
Open Wounds	4.9%	9.2%	1.0
Burns	1.6%	2.7%	1.1
Other Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	13.4%	10.9%	2.4
Systemic Diseases and Disorders	**4.1%**	**4.9%**	**1.6**
Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions	**0.5%**	**0.3%**	**3.2**
Other Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**0.4%**	**0.2%**	**3.1**
Multiple Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**0.1%**	**<0.1%**	**1.9**
Nature of Injury - Unknown	**3.9%**	**3.5%**	**2.1**

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[3] Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

3.3 Part of Body Injured

Between 2001 and 2005, the trunk was the main injured body part, accounting for 42.5% of the total lost-time claims in the AMTA industries, followed by lower extremities at 22.5% and upper extremities at 13.3%. The most common trunk injury was to the back, including spine and spinal cord, representing 27.4% of total lost-time claims (see Table 3.3A).

Table 3.3A
Part of Body Injured — Alberta: 2001-2005

Part of Body Injured	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total Lost-Time Claims	%
Trunk	**1,104**	**949**	**902**	**836**		**4,658**	**42.5%**
Back, Including Spine, Spinal Cord	734	636	601	515		3,002	27.4%
Other Trunk	370	313	301	321		1,656	15.1%
Lower Extremities	**546**	**469**	**458**	**519**		**2,469**	**22.5%**
Leg(s)	236	205	191	235		1,090	9.9%
Ankle(s) and Foot (Feet) Except Toes	273	231	236	254		1,211	11.0%
Other Lower Extremities	37	33	31	30		168	1.5%
Upper Extremities	**338**	**295**	**267**	**266**		**1,460**	**13.3%**
Finger(s), Fingernail(s)	92	80	73	70		399	3.6%
Wrist(s) and Hand(s) Except Finger(s)	139	106	100	96		546	5.0%
Other Upper Extremities	107	109	94	100		515	4.7%
Head	**134**	**126**	**130**	**128**		**676**	**6.2%**
Eye(s)	24	32	29	33		155	1.4%
Other Head Parts	110	94	101	95		521	4.7%
Multiple Body Parts	**246**	**308**	**296**	**210**		**1,262**	**11.5%**
Neck, Including Throat	**71**	**62**	**60**	**63**		**323**	**2.9%**
Body Systems	**10**	**8**	**14**	**9**		**53**	**0.5%**
Part of Body - Unknown	**12**	**17**	**10**	**8**		**53**	**0.5%**
Other Body Parts	**3**	**4**	**2**	**1**		**16**	**0.1%**
Total	**2,464**	**2,238**	**2,139**	**2,040**		**10,970**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2005, the back, including spine and spinal cord accounted for 24.7% of all claims in the AMTA industries. This was 1.8 times higher than the average percentage of injuries in this category for the province. Percentages of injuries in all part of body categories for 2005 were higher than or equal to the provincial average (see Table 3.3B).

Table 3.3B
Part of Body Injured — Comparison 2005[4]

Part of Body Injured	% of AMTA Industries' Claims	% of Total Provincial Claims	Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average
Trunk	**41.5%**	**38.6%**	**2.0**
Back, Including Spine, Spinal Cord	24.7%	26.0%	1.8
Other Trunk	16.8%	12.6%	2.6
Lower Extremities	**22.9%**	**19.8%**	**2.2**
Leg(s)	10.7%	9.8%	2.1
Ankle(s) and Foot(Feet) Except Toes	10.4%	8.8%	2.3
Other Lower Extremities	1.8%	1.2%	2.8
Upper Extremities	**14.0%**	**23.8%**	**1.1**
Finger(s), Fingernail(s)	4.0%	8.1%	1.0
Wrist(s) and Hand(s) Except Finger(s)	5.0%	9.2%	1.1
Other Upper Extremities	5.0%	6.5%	1.5
Head	**7.6%**	**7.9%**	**1.8**
Eye(s)	1.8%	3.2%	1.1
Other Head Parts	5.8%	4.7%	2.4
Multiple Body Parts	**9.7%**	**7.0%**	**2.7**
Neck, Including Throat	**3.2%**	**2.3%**	**2.7**
Body Systems	**0.6%**	**0.5%**	**2.4**
Part of Body - Unknown	**0.3%**	**0.2%**	**2.9**
Other Body Parts	**0.3%**	**0.1%**	**8.6**

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[4] Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

3.4 Source of Injury or Disease

The source of injury or disease describes the object or substance that the worker came into contact resulting in an injury or disease. Two primary sources of injury accounted for 40.0% of lost-time claims. Structures and surfaces represented 20.3% of all claims and vehicles 19.7% (see Table 3.4A).

Table 3.4A
Source of Injury or Disease — Alberta: 2001-2005

Source of Injury or Disease	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total Lost-Time Claims	Total %
Structures and Surfaces	**445**	**416**	**494**	**425**		**2,222**	**20.3%**
Vehicles	**450**	**476**	**424**	**399**		**2,162**	**19.7%**
Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	**336**	**343**	**334**	**340**		**1,655**	**15.1%**
Person - Injured or Ill Worker	305	321	309	322		1,534	14.0%
Person - Other Than Injured or Ill Worker [1]	3	3	6	2		17	0.2%
Minerals - Metallic or Nonmetallic (except fuel)	6	6	8	8		37	0.3%
Other Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	22	13	11	8		67	0.6%
Containers [2]	**339**	**260**	**238**	**251**		**1,332**	**12.1%**
Parts and Materials	**252**	**167**	**179**	**185**		**1,009**	**9.2%**
Machinery	**104**	**79**	**82**	**77**		**424**	**3.9%**
Other Sources	**49**	**48**	**76**	**68**		**315**	**2.9%**
Tools, Instruments and Equipment	**47**	**40**	**55**	**34**		**242**	**2.2%**
Hand tools - Non-powered	28	22	26	21		132	1.2%
Hand tools - Powered	3	4	6	4		22	0.2%
Other Tools and Equipment	16	14	23	9		88	0.8%
Furniture and Fixtures	**59**	**54**	**51**	**44**		**240**	**2.2%**
Chemicals and Chemical Products	**10**	**16**	**9**	**14**		**71**	**0.6%**
Source of Injury - Unknown	**373**	**339**	**197**	**203**		**1,298**	**11.8%**
Total	**2,464**	**2,238**	**2,139**	**2,040**		**10,970**	**100.0%**

[1] Person – other than injured or ill worker: classifies injuries or illnesses inflicted by family members as well as non-family relations, including co-workers, former co-workers, and patients.

[2] Containers: classifies receptacles that are commonly used to hold, store or carry materials (examples: dishes, cups and glasses, luggage, etc.).

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2005, structures and surfaces accounted for 21.2% of all claims in the AMTA industries. This was 2.4 times higher the average percentage of injuries in this category for the province. Vehicles accounted for 19.8% of AMTA industries' claims, which was 5.2 times higher than the provincial average (see Table 3.4B).

Table 3.4B
Source of Injury or Disease — Comparison 2005[5]

Source of Injury or Disease	% of AMTA Industries' Claims	% of Total Provincial Claims	Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average
Structures and Surfaces	**21.2%**	**16.7%**	**2.4**
Vehicles	**19.8%**	**7.4%**	**5.2**
Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	**14.4%**	**24.5%**	**1.1**
Person - Injured or Ill Worker	13.3%	17.4%	1.5
Person - Other Than Injured or Ill Worker	0.1%	5.0%	0.1
Minerals - Metallic or Nonmetallic (except fuel)	0.4%	0.4%	2.1
Other Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	0.6%	1.7%	1.1
Containers	**11.7%**	**10.1%**	**2.2**
Parts and Materials	**10.8%**	**10.5%**	**2**
Machinery	**3.9%**	**5.6%**	**1.3**
Other Sources	**3.5%**	**5.2%**	**1.3**
Tools, Instruments and Equipment	**3.1%**	**6.7%**	**0.9**
Hand tools - Non-powered	1.7%	3.4%	0.9
Hand tools - Powered	0.2%	1.1%	0.4
Other Tools and Equipment	1.2%	2.2%	1.1
Furniture and Fixtures	**1.5%**	**3.1%**	**0.9**
Chemicals and Chemical Products	**1.1%**	**1.2%**	**1.6**
Source of Injury - Unknown	**8.9%**	**8.8%**	**1.9**

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[5] Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

3.5 Type of Event or Exposure

The type of event or exposure describes the incident or event that occurred at the time of the exposure that directly resulted in the injury or disease. The two most common types of events or exposures that comprised almost sixty per cent of the total lost-time claims in the AMTA industries in the last five years are: bodily reaction and exertion, 36.6% and falls, 22.2% (see Table 3.5A).

Table 3.5A
Type of Event or Exposure — Alberta: 2001-2005

Type of Event or Exposure	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total Lost-Time Claims	Total %
Bodily Reaction and Exertion	**940**	**797**	**780**	**775**	[illegible]	**4,014**	**36.6%**
Overexertion	622	471	458	430	[illegible]	2,416	22.0%
Bodily Reaction [1]	276	276	271	266	[illegible]	1,321	12.0%
Repetitive Motion	27	24	21	33	[illegible]	134	1.2%
Other Bodily Reaction/Exertion	15	26	30	46	[illegible]	143	1.3%
Falls	**527**	**450**	**531**	**451**	[illegible]	**2,438**	**22.2%**
Fall on Same Level	253	229	296	255	[illegible]	1,300	11.9%
Fall to Lower Level	217	182	195	160	[illegible]	913	8.3%
Other Falls	57	39	40	36	[illegible]	225	2.1%
Contact with Objects and Equipment	**454**	**405**	**379**	**382**	[illegible]	**2,058**	**18.8%**
Struck by Object	238	221	207	196	[illegible]	1,085	9.9%
Caught in Object	93	73	74	84	[illegible]	405	3.7%
Struck against Object	108	86	74	77	[illegible]	447	4.1%
Rubbed or Abraded	13	18	15	15	[illegible]	79	0.7%
Other Contact with Object/Equipment	2	7	9	10	[illegible]	42	0.4%
Transportation Accidents	**298**	**313**	**297**	**268**	[illegible]	**1,437**	**13.1%**
Exposure to Harmful Substances	**36**	**32**	**42**	**38**	[illegible]	**222**	**2.0%**
Assaults and Violent Acts	**12**	**8**	**9**	**6**	[illegible]	**45**	0.4%
Assaults and Violent Acts by Person(s)	1	4	4	3	[illegible]	15	0.1%
Other Assaults and Violent Acts	11	4	5	3	[illegible]	30	0.3%
Fires and Explosions	**5**	**5**	**2**	**7**	[illegible]	**22**	**0.2%**
Type of Event - Unknown	**192**	**224**	**98**	**113**	[illegible]	**728**	**6.6%**
Other Events or Exposures	**0**	**4**	**1**	**0**	[illegible]	**6**	**0.1%**
Total	**2,464**	**2,238**	**2,139**	**2,040**	[illegible]	**10,970**	**100.0%**

[1] Bodily reaction: injuries or illnesses resulting from a single incident of free bodily motion which imposed stress or strain on some part of the body.

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2005, overexertion accounted for 20.8% of all claims in the AMTA industries. This was 1.7 times higher than the average percentage of injuries for this type of event category for the province. Transport accidents accounted for 12.5% of all claims. This was 4.9 times higher than the average percentage of provincial claims. Nearly all type of event categories were higher than the provincial average (see Table 3.5B).

Table 3.5B
Type of Event or Exposure — Comparison 2005[6]

Type of Event or Exposure	% of AMTA Industries' Claims	% of Total Provincial Claims	Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average
Bodily Reaction and Exertion	**34.5%**	**41.4%**	**1.6**
Overexertion	20.8%	23.0%	1.7
Bodily Reaction [1]	11.1%	11.8%	1.8
Repetitive Motion	1.4%	4.7%	0.6
Other Bodily Reaction/Exertion	1.2%	1.9%	1.3
Falls	**22.9%**	**16.9%**	**2.6**
Fall on Same Level	12.8%	10.4%	2.4
Fall to Lower Level	7.6%	5.0%	2.9
Other Falls	2.5%	1.5%	3.3
Contact With Objects and Equipment	**21.1%**	**25.5%**	**1.6**
Struck by Object	10.7%	13.2%	1.6
Struck against Object	4.9%	5.5%	1.7
Caught in Object	3.9%	4.4%	1.7
Rubbed or Abraded	0.9%	1.5%	1.1
Other Contact with Object/Equipment	0.7%	0.9%	1.4
Transportation Accidents	**12.5%**	**4.9%**	**4.9**
Exposure to Harmful Substances	**3.5%**	**4.6%**	**1.5**
Assaults and Violent Acts	**0.4%**	**1.6%**	**0.5**
Assaults and Violent Acts by Person(s)	0.1%	1.3%	0.2
Other Assaults and Violent Acts	0.3%	0.3%	2.3
Fires and Explosions	**0.1%**	**0.2%**	**1.7**
Type of Event - Unknown	**4.8%**	**4.9%**	**1.9**

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[6] Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

3.6 Duration of Disability

Duration of disability[7] is intended to reflect the severity of the effects of occupational injury and disease as reflected by the number of days off work. However, the efforts of employers to introduce modified work programs to integrate injured workers more quickly back into the workforce can reduce workdays lost.

Between 2001 and 2005, 42.6% of claims had duration of disability of ten days or less. Claims with one to five days duration represented 29.6% of all claims, and six to ten days accounted for 13.0%. More than a quarter of the total lost-time claims resulted in 51 days or more lost from work (see Table 3.6A).

Table 3.6A
Duration of Disability — Alberta: 2001-2005

						Total	
Duration of Disability	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Lost-Time Claims	%
1-5 Days	706	638	628	628	[illegible]	3,243	29.6%
6-10 Days	337	326	253	235	[illegible]	1,424	13.0%
11-15 Days	184	176	156	167	[illegible]	845	7.7%
16-20 Days	124	118	110	111	[illegible]	565	5.2%
21-30 Days	182	151	143	140	[illegible]	771	7.0%
31-40 Days	126	99	101	106	[illegible]	546	5.0%
41-50 Days	104	98	90	91	[illegible]	486	4.4%
51 Days or More	641	563	607	491	[illegible]	2,760	25.2%
Unspecified	60	69	51	71	[illegible]	330	3.0%
Total	**2,464**	**2,238**	**2,139**	**2,040**	[illegible]	**10,970**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[7] The duration of disability refers to the length of time, in days, for which the worker receives wage compensation from the WCB.

In 2005, claims with one to five days duration of disability accounted for 30.8% of all claims in the AMTA industries. This was 1.5 times higher than the average percentage of injuries for claims of this duration for the province. Percentages of injuries in all duration categories were higher than the provincial average (see Table 3.6B).

Table 3.6B
Duration of Disability — Comparison 2005[8]

Duration of Disability	% of AMTA Industries' Claims	% of Total Provincial Claims	Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average
1-5 Days	30.8%	40.4%	1.5
6-10 Days	13.1%	13.8%	1.8
11-15 Days	7.8%	7.9%	1.9
16-20 Days	4.9%	5.3%	1.8
21-30 Days	7.4%	6.9%	2.1
31-40 Days	5.5%	5.0%	2.1
41-50 Days	4.9%	3.6%	2.6
51 Days or More	21.9%	13.4%	3.1
Unspecified	3.7%	3.6%	2.0

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[8] Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES

In 2005 WCB accepted 12 fatalities in the AMTA industries, accounting for 8.4% of all 143 fatalities in the province.

A WCB accepted occupational fatality is defined as the death of a worker, resulting from a work-related incident or exposure, which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. Some of the fatalities accepted in a particular year occurred in prior years. Unless otherwise specified, occupational fatalities in this report refer to occupational fatalities accepted by the WCB. The WCB classifies occupational fatalities into three general types:

Motor Vehicle Incidents

Motor vehicle incidents typically involve non-industrial vehicles operating on public roads in which the fatally injured worker was either the driver or a passenger. This type of occupational fatality also includes cases involving aircraft crashes, train crashes, helicopter crashes and water vehicle crashes. In 2005, seven of the twelve AMTA fatalities accepted by the WCB were motor vehicle incidents (see Table 4.0).

Workplace Incidents

Workplace incidents consisted of cases in which the worker died at a worksite or as a result of injuries sustained at a worksite. This is the type of fatality that AHRE typically investigates. In 2005, two of AMTA fatalities accepted by the WCB were workplace incidents (see Table 4.0).

Occupational Disease

Occupational disease fatalities consist mostly of recognized occupational disease, that is, disease known to be primarily or exclusively work-related. This category also includes heart attacks suffered on the job. Occupational diseases are frequently diagnosed several years after the initial or crucial exposure to the toxic substance and in such cases, it is difficult to determine when the fatal exposure occurred. *The occupational disease category, therefore, should not be interpreted to reflect present worksite hazardous conditions or exposures.*

Each year the WCB accepts some occupational fatality claims for compensation. Occupational fatality claims that were accepted in a particular year may include fatalities from prior years. In 2005, three of the fatalities accepted by WCB were in the AMTA industries (see Table 4.0).

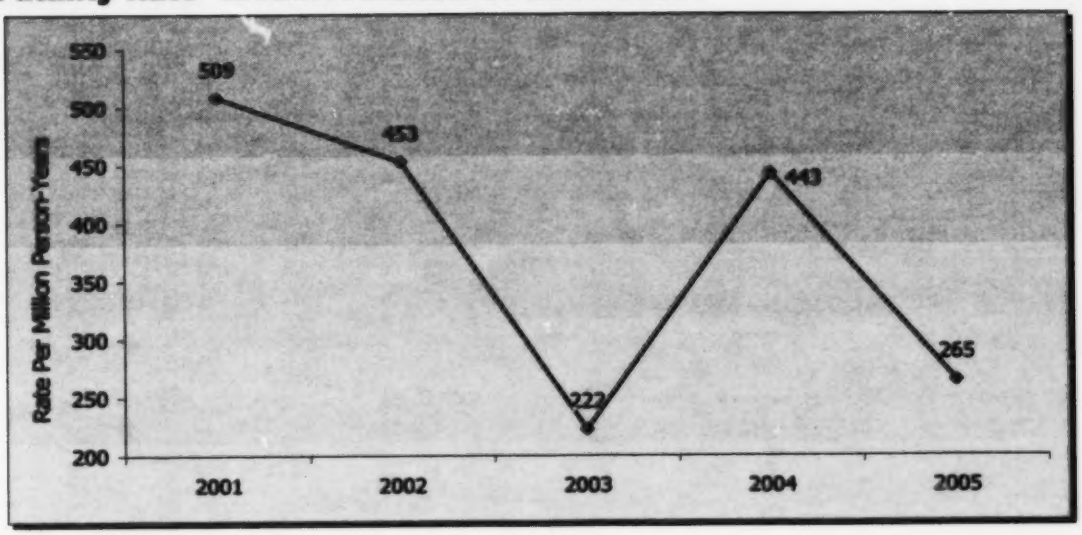
Table 4.0
Types of Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the WCB – Alberta: 2001-2005

Year	Motor Vehicle Incident		Workplace Incident		Occupational Disease		Total
	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities
2001	13	65.0%	5	25.0%	2	10.0%	20
2002	7	38.9%	3	16.7%	8	44.4%	18
2003	7	77.8%	1	11.1%	1	11.1%	9
2004	14	77.8%	3	16.7%	1	5.6%	18
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total	48	62.3%	14	18.2%	15	19.5%	77

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

The fatality rate is calculated by dividing the number of accepted fatalities in the year by the number of person-years in that year. The result is expressed as "per million person-years." The 2005 fatality rate was 265 per million person-years, almost half the rate from 2004 (see Chart 4.0).

Chart 4.0
Fatality Rate[9] in AMTA Industries 2001-2005



Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[9] Estimates are based upon information provided by the WCB. Fatalities occurring under Government of Canada jurisdiction are excluded from the calculation of the fatality rates.

Between 2001 and 2005, the WCB accepted 77 fatalities in the AMTA industries. The General Delivery Services Trucking industry accounted for the majority with 68 accepted fatalities, representing 88.3% of all fatalities in the AMTA industries (see Table 4.1).

Table 4.1
AMTA Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the WCB by Industry – Alberta: 2001-2005

Industry	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total Number of Fatalities	Total %
General Delivery Services Trucking	19	17	8	15	[illegible]	68	88.3%
Specialized Trucking	1	1	1	3	[illegible]	8	10.4%
Garbage/Waste Collection and Disposal Services	0	0	0	0	[illegible]	1	1.3%
AMTA Industries	**20**	**18**	**9**	**18**	[illegible]	**77**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

5 CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION EMPLOYERS

A Certificate of Recognition (COR) is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards. Certificates are issued by Certifying Partners and are co-signed by AHRE[10].

In 2005, 4.9% of AMTA industries' employers were COR holders. These employers represented 33.2% of total person-years in the AMTA industries. The Garbage/Waste Collection and Disposal industry had the highest proportion of CORs at 13.8%, representing 70.6% of all person-years in this industry (see Table 5.0).

Table 5.0
Employers With Valid COR — Alberta: 2005

Industry	Number of Certified Employers	Total Number of Employers	% of Total Employers Certified	% of Total Person-Years Certified
AMTA Industries	**675**	**13,822**	**4.9%**	**33.2%**
Garbage/Waste Collection and Disposal Services	29	210	13.8%	70.6%
General Delivery Services Trucking	581	12,681	4.6%	30.9%
Specialized Trucking	65	931	7.0%	43.6%

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[10] For more information on the COR program visit http://www.hre.gov.ab.ca/whs-partnerships/

Between 2004 and 2005, the lost-time claim rate for COR holders decreased from 4.2 to 4.0, while the rate for non-COR holders decreased from 5.5 to 4.9. For the province, there was a slight decrease in the lost-time claim rate for COR holders between 2004 and 2005, although when rounded, the rate remains unchanged at 2.4. Non-COR holders experienced a decrease from 2.6 to 2.4 in their lost-time claim rates (see Table 5.1).

Table 5.1
Lost-Time Claim Rate for AMTA COR Holders — Alberta: 2004 and 2005

Employer	Year	AMTA Industries				Province			
		LTCs	Person-Years	LTC Rate	Change in LTC Rate	LTCs	Person-Years	LTC Rate	Change in LTC Rate
COR	2004	582	13,975	4.2	-3.1%	10,563	431,347	2.4	-3.0%
	2005	607	15,044	4.0		11,093	467,041	2.4	
Non-COR	2004	1458	26,674	5.5	-10.6%	23,869	921,867	2.6	-6.2%
	2005	1482	30,319	4.9		24,367	1,003,280	2.4	

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

APPENDIX A: TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND FORMULAS

Lost-Time Claim

A lost-time claim (LTC) is a claim for an occupational injury or disease that causes the worker to have time away from work, beyond the day of injury. Included are claims receiving reimbursement of full or partial lost wages due to occupational illness or injury, or payment for permanent loss of function.

Person-Years

Person-years are estimates calculated from wage and payroll data provided by account holders to the WCB. Alberta Human Resources and Employment uses data to estimate an average industry wage, and uses the average industry wage and employer payroll data to estimate person-years for each employer and each industry. One person-year is equivalent to one full-time worker working for one year, and can be assumed to equal 2,000 hours worked.

Lost-Time Claim Rate

The lost-time claim (LTC) rate is calculated by dividing the number of lost-time claims by the person-year estimate, and multiplying the result by 100. The LTC rate represents the probability or risk of an injury or disease to a worker during a period of one-year work, that will result in lost-time from work. Comparisons of LTC rates between industries, or between years, can be used to indicate increases, decreases, or differences in this risk.

$$\text{LTC Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of LTCs} \times 100}{\text{Person-Years}}$$

Duration (Days Lost)

The duration of disability is the number of days following the injury or disease for which the worker was disabled and unable to perform normal work duties. This information is obtained for this report from data on compensation days paid on each claim from the WCB. Alberta Human Resources and Employment obtains these data on March 31 of the year following the claim year, and does not update the information, even though many injured workers continue to be disabled beyond this date. As a result, the duration information reported here underestimates the true impact of lost-time injury and disease.

Duration Rate

The duration rate is calculated by dividing the number of workdays lost (disability days) by the person-year estimate, and multiplying by 100. The result is expressed as days lost per 100 person-years, and indicates, in part, the economic impact of occupational injury and disease. Duration rates are not recommended as reliable indicators of full economic cost. In addition, readers are warned that duration rates are highly unstable when based on only a few lost-time claims; it is recommended that the duration rate not be calculated based upon fewer than 30 lost-time claims.

$$\text{Duration Rate} = \frac{\text{Disability Days} \times 100}{\text{Person-Years}}$$

Cost of Claims

Compensation cost of a claim is the reimbursement of full or partial lost wages that a worker received from the WCB due to occupational illness or injury.

WCB Accepted Fatality

An occupational fatality is the death of a worker which resulted from a work-related incident or exposure and which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. A fatality is counted in the year it is accepted.

Fatality Rate

The fatality rate is calculated by dividing the number of accepted fatalities by the person-years estimate and multiplying the result by one million. The result is expressed as fatalities per million person-years. Fatalities that are found under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada are excluded before the calculation of the fatality rate.

$$\text{Fatality Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Fatalities} \times 1{,}000{,}000}{\text{Person-Years}}$$

Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average

The number of times higher/lower than the provincial average is used to compare the performance of the industries with the province regarding specific injury or disease. A number less than one indicates that the injury of the industries is lower than the provincial average; if equal to one it indicates the injury of the industries is the same as the provincial average and a number greater than one indicates that the injury of the industries is higher than the provincial average.

$$\frac{\text{Percent of Total Claims for the Industries} \times \text{Industries' LTC Rate}}{\text{Percent of Total Claims for the Province} \times \text{Provincial LTC Rate}}$$

Where:

Percent of Total Claims for the Industries =

$$\frac{\text{Number of LTCs for the Industries (e.g. back injury)} \times 100}{\text{Total LTCs for the Industries}}$$

Percent of Total Claims for the Province =

$$\frac{\text{Number of LTCs for the Province (e.g. back injury)} \times 100}{\text{Total LTCs for the Province}}$$

NEC Means 'Not Elsewhere Classified'.

UNS Means 'Unspecified'.

APPENDIX B: AMTA WCB INDUSTRY CODES[11]

B

50701 – Specialized Trucking

50714 – General Delivery Services Trucking

57901 – Garbage/Waste Collection and Disposal Services

[11] Codes are Workers' Compensation Board industry codes.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Fax: 780-422-5070

Alberta Human Resources and Employment website:

http://www.hre.gov.ab.ca/

Work Safe Alberta website:

http://www.worksafely.org

Workplace Health and Safety Contact Centre:

Telephone: 780-415-8690, toll free by calling 1-866-415-8690

http://www.hre.gov.ab.ca/whs-contact/

Certificate of Recognition (COR) Program:

http://www.hre.gov.ab.ca/whs-partnerships/